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GP/3711-#

Express Mail No.: EL 451 597 075 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#9

Response
J. Bryce
6/13/01

In re application of: Duffy et al.

Application No.: 09/379,212

Group Art Unit: 3711

Filed: August 23, 1999

Examiner: Mendez, M.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
POWER CONNECTION IN A MODULAR
PATIENT CARE SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.:
8236-053-999

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
JUN 11 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit the following remarks in response to the Office Action dated December 6, 2000.

Claims 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 19-27 of prior U.S. Patent No. 5,941,846 ("the '846 patent").

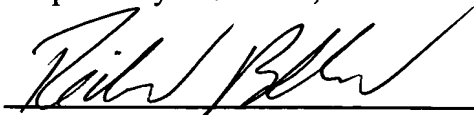
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-27 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the grounds that claims 19-27 of the '846 patent were properly canceled in an Amendment After Allowance Under 37 CFR § 1.312, filed January 25, 1999, and should not have been printed in the issued patent. To correct this mistake, Applicants filed a Request for Certificate of Correction of the '846 patent on November 10, 2000. Copies of the Amendment After Allowance and the Certificate of Correction are attached. Also attached is a copy of a Response to Rule 312 Communication, dated February 22, 1999, evidencing that the Amendment After Allowance was entered into the patent record.

Claims 19-27 of the present invention are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner considers any action other than allowance, he is invited to call Thomas Kohler, a representative of the applicants, at (650) 849-7706.

Authorization to charge the required fee for a three month extension of time is attached. Should the Commissioner determine that additional fees are due in connection with this response, he is authorized to charge the required fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 5, 2001


Richard E. Ballard 46,078
(Reg. No.)

for:

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Enclosures